

Senator Bridget McKenzie

THE NATIONALS *for Regional Australia*

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E News

Election Special

WINTER 2016

Im proud...



It's in the frame. Former National's leader John Anderson joined Murray candidate Damian Drum and I on the hustings for the seat of Murray (watched over by John McEwen).

#DRUMMY4MURRAY

THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

Wow! What an election campaign, 55 days of politicking for our political leaders as they criss-crossed the country and even now, the Senate results are not finalised as the votes continue to be counted.

The Nationals had our most successful campaign for decades and our Federal party room swells to 22 with Victoria delivering the key seat of Murray back to the Nationals.

My time was spent supporting our candidates across the state but predominately in Indi and Murray.

Last November, Marty Corboy made the right

decision to fight a grassroots campaign in Indi, putting forward a positive choice for coalition voters against Sophie Mirabella (Liberal) and sitting independent Cathy McGowan.

The strategy was successful with Marty attracting over 17% of the primary vote, establishing the National's brand firmly across Indi. His campaign team put in a stellar effort throughout and are to be commended for their work rate and creativity.

All of this at a time when the Corboy family is about to increase to 7 children, with the latest arrival due any day to add to the already impressive entourage. (Picture)





Andy Maddison
for Bendigo



Paul Tatchell
for Ballarat



James Anderson
for McEwen

The seat of Murray has iconic status for the Nationals and what a great result for the former State Minister Damian Drum who recorded 35.34% of the vote, winning the seat against a concerted Liberal effort aided by an ALP preference deal.

Working with Damian throughout the campaign I am confident he will be a strong advocate for Murray and champion their issues in federal parliament. His pursuit of the backpacker tax issue with the deputy PM, following a meeting with local industry leaders was telling. As was his practical approach to ensuring the social and economic impact of the MDBA decisions are recognised by shifting the authority to Shepparton. The communities of the Murray electorate have a local member committed to ensuring their future.

Damian's local knowledge combined with his experience and deep held views on social justice are the perfect mix for such a unique seat as Murray and I look forward to working with him.

One of the reasons for our success was that our campaigns in Victoria were supported by so many of our ministers, making announcements, holding community forums, promoting the policies that will underpin our economic future of regional communities. The team approach of the Nationals is one of our great strengths- and we used it to full affect in this campaign with the Deputy Prime

Minister visiting several times and Fiona Nash almost taking up permanent residence!

The Nationals can be rightly proud of the results in Victoria with Darren Chester recording 56.34% of the vote in Gippsland, a 2.58% swing to him in the seat. Andrew Broad 64.31% in Mallee, a 25.55% swing to him with no Liberal running this time. Paul Tatchell (Ballarat) 4.2%, Andy Maddison (Bendigo) 3.63%, James Anderson (McEwen) 2.36%. Could I also add my appreciation to all of the volunteers and helpers who contributed so much to our campaign.

In the Senate where counting is continuing, Nationals did well in all states. With great anticipation we look to WA results where we lead the Greens going into the final distribution of preferences. That is likely to take place on Tuesday with a formal declaration on Wednesday.

Our vote in Victoria is increasing, so far, over the last election. The changes to the senate voting system have led to some incredible outcomes with Australians using the system to make their own preference choices. We should not ignore these messages at a policy level. Given the result in Tasmania, the way we approach senate campaigns in the future will have to change.





THE NATIONALS *for Regional Victoria*

The Way Forward

The Nationals did so well in the election, running a solid grass roots campaign across the country, and solidifying our influence in key ministerial portfolios that build and sustain regional economies for the 21st century including trade, regional communications and development, infrastructure and transport, local government, resources, small business, tourism and investment. The Nationals will have a significant influence in developing policies that affect and protect our core base.

Of special note is the elevation of Matt Canavan into Cabinet to handle the Resources portfolio, and Michael McCormack into Small Business, a great fit for our party.

I believe this Ministry will serve all Australians well over the coming years, and commend the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on their recognition of the valuable regional experience National members bring to Cabinet as we work hard over the coming Parliament to deliver.

Campaign Moments – some of the memories.





**Think Local.
Vote National.**